



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Wednesday, October 17, 2018 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Adam Hussain, Vice Chair- excused
Council Member Jeremy Garza, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Mitch Whisler, Public Service
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service
Brian McGrain, Economic Development & Planning Director
Steve Swan, Building Official
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Susan Stachowiak, Economic Development & Planning
Elaine Womboldt
Kathy Miles
Heather Sumner, Deputy Chief City Attorney

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 10, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

UPDATE FROM LAW- 3801 Walton & Future Enforcement

Mr. Smiertka stated that after the Committee meeting on October 10th, he spoke to the owner and a meeting has been set for November 13th with the owner, Law, Council Member Garza, and Mr. Swan to create a plan and have the owner sign off on the plan.

Ms. Womboldt gave her overview of the history of enforcement on the site.

Council Member Wood asked Law to research a past case with the 54A District Court where a landlord had rentals that were not up to code and was ordered to sell them. Mr. Smiertka

stated that if there are code violations they can write compliance tickets. Mr. Swan stated they have to provide a correction notice first and then can write a court order ticket, and if it is a building issue they do write tickets for court order compliance. Mr. McGrain stated his office can provide Law a list of what items have been cited and written up. Council Member Wood also asked for how many people are living in one unit and can live in one unit.

UPDATE FROM LAW– Logan Square

(Report Attached) Mr. Smiertka noted the Mayor asked for an overview and interview for this property along with Pleasant Grove/Holmes.

Ms. Stachowiak confirmed this property currently has no violations on property. She added they had repaired all pot holes, fixed signs, and removed the temporary signs. The vehicles on the grass were addressed along with the storage violations behind the building. Mr. Swan informed the Committee that the building safety issues with structure are being addressed and they have provided plans to fix them and are on track to comply.

UPDATE FROM LAW –Pleasant Grove Holmes Shopping Center

(Report Attached) Mr. Smiertka stated his office has attempted multiple times to meet and speak with the owners, but have not gotten any response, and their City phone number is now being blocked by the owners. He added they cannot force them to meet. Council Member Wood stated that Council can hold investigations and request subpoenas, at which Mr. Smiertka confirmed but stated they would have to go to court for the subpoena and that will required grounds to do so. Council Member Wood asked for confirmation that the list of items in the report are the grounds for the investigation, along with the document they signed stating they would do improvements.

It was confirmed the Fire Chief is in process of inspections on the site currently also.

Council Member Wood stated her standing that Council should pursue a subpoena for investigation, noting it is been stated to the Committee that the owner was calling regularly to the Fire Chief to make sure they were following up on their items.

Ms. Stachowiak stated that they have met with all the tenants, except Mr. Singh, and there are currently no violations. Mr. Singh, she confirmed, has fixed the parking lot and other owners/tenants have until the end of month to fix parking lot pot holes, signs removed, tall grass, and number of issues corrected.

The Committee set a special meeting for Monday, October 22, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. to address a resolution for starting the investigation.

Ms. Womboldt provide a flyer on the upcoming projects on the property.

RESOLUTION – Traffic Control Order #18-003; Intersection of Hanover Drive and Wellesley Drive

Mr. Kilpatrick stated that after a study for safe approach guidelines, it was recommended a yield sign be installed, which he confirmed has been in place for a couple year.

Council Member Wood asked how many more TCO are older than the 60 day temporary. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed the office has caught up to 2016.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER 18-003; INTERSECTION OF HANOVER DRIVE AND WELLESLEY DRIVE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Traffic Control Order #18-008 and #18-009; Wexford Rd between Viola Drive and Jolly Road

Mr. Kilpatrick stated this was located in front of the Wexford Schools, and it will create one way during pick up and drop off to facility. This will be one way north bound and no right or left turn on Jolly from Wexford during certain times, as listed in the order.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER 18-008 AND 18-009 FOR WEXFORD RD BETWEEN VIOLA DRIVE AND JOLLY ROAD. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Traffic Control Order #18-019; Shiawassee Street between Verlinden Avenue and Memphis Street

Mr. Kilpatrick informed the Committee that this was for the removal of the parking restrictions that were placed on street parking when GM was in the area.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER 18-019 FOR SHIAWASSEE STREET BETWEEN VERLINDEN AVENUE AND MEMPHIS STREET. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Traffic Control Order #18-030; Pere Marquette Drive between Shiawassee Street and Michigan Avenue

Mr. Kilpatrick explained to the Committee that there was a request to change the limits on the meters, so after a survey it was determined to changes 1 meter remaining 1 hour meter to 2 hours, and the other meters were changed to 10 hours.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER 18-030 FOR PERE MARQUETTE DRIVE BETWEEN SHIAWASSEE STREET AND MICHIGAN AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Traffic Control Order # 18-040; Intersection of Barnes Avenue and Washington Avenue

Mr. Kilpatrick noted the signal at the intersection has been in flash mode since 2012, and at that point the Traffic Board had questions on pedestrian crossing, so they requested another study. Based on the study and determination, the signal will now come down, and the intersection will be controlled by a stop sign.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER 18-040 FOR THE INTERSECTION OF BARNES AVENUE AND WASHINGTON AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

ORDINANCE & DISCUSSION - Amendments to Chapter 1284.20 Guidelines, Requirements and Exemptions for Lighting of Off-Street Parking

Mr. Smiertka explained that at the last Committee meeting there was a discussion on sensor light language being added to the ordinance so it was added to page 1 and page 2.

SHOULD AN OCCUPANCY SENSOR BE INSTALLED, THE MAXIMUM DURATION OF ILLUMINATION FOR EACH SUCH SENSOR SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN (10) CONTINUOUS MINUTES WITHOUT SENSING NEW MOTION.

After a discussion on the length of time the light is on, City owned lights with sensors having 3-10 minutes timing, it was determined to amend the language to state: THE MINIMUM DURATION OF ILLUMINATION FOR EACH SUCH SENSOR SHALL BE TEN (10) CONTINUOUS MINUTES WITHOUT SENSING MOTION AND THE MAXIMUM DURATION OF ILLUMINATION SHALL NOT EXCEED THIRTY (30) CONTINUOUS

MINUTES WITHOUT SENSING MOTION. A SENSOR MUST DETECT HUMAN FIGURE MOTION.

Ms. Stachowiak noted that any time there is work on a site that requires a site plan review the applicant has to bring the full site up to code. Council Member Wood asked if there was a way to add language that if a certain percentage of work is performed it must be brought into compliance, and referenced work has been done. She noted that Mr. Venker from Law at an earlier meeting noted 35% had to be done for it to be brought into compliance. Ms. Stachowiak stated the EDP can work the review internally in their department.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1284.20 FOR THE GUIDELINES, REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS FOR LIGHTING ON OFF STREET PARKING. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION – 2am – 5am Parking Enforcement

Council Member Wood noted that the Administration was invited to this meeting because there was no reason to move forward by the Committee if the Administration was not going to plan for enforcement. Mr. McGrain stated that LPD is currently enforcement, and this is a low level priority for the Administration. Council Member Wood informed Mr. McGrain if the Committee moved forward with the permit process they are looking at, there would need to be enforcement as part of that, and one recommendation would be for the Administration to consider moving a parking officer to evenings. Mr. McGrain stated he would forward the information to the Administration to look at and asked if they considered permitting all areas, and was told they were, however they were not going to take the time to look at permits, law, and language if the administration will not establish enforcement. Mr. McGrain apologized for not being prepared and stated he was not aware the Committee had decided on the option, and would report back. Council Member Wood stated that the Committee will continue the discussion at the November 7th meeting, and if the Administration says parking is not a priority for enforcement, then she stated there would be no reason to continue. Council Member Wood then informed the Committee that Mr. Brewer, Internal Auditor spoke to Mr. Curtis who stated there is equipment that can read a sticker in the car without getting out of the car. Mr. Kilpatrick suggested the program that could read the plate, and determine if a permit was issued to that license plate.

Other

Mr. McGrain provided an update to the Committee on recent activity at Porter Apartments, which is a 100 year old building which they were making repairs on their heat system and so it was temporarily off October 18, 2018. While on site the City inspectors noticed other issues. Council Member Wood asked Mr. McGrain to find out what funds HUD has provided to the site on their PILOT. He will also provide an update on the last inspection.

Council Member Wood asked if the LHC properties were on their timeline for corrections, and Mr. McGrain stated the Administration is satisfied with the Interim Director, the reports came out early October and their date of compliance is October 31st.

Ms. Miles informed the Committee that she heard a rumor that 3200 is in worse condition.

Ms. Womboldt inquired if a property on MLK had permits and Ms. Stachowiak confirmed they did.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Kilpatrick to look into high density speed bumps' 4' – 5' long staggered on the street for traffic calming options.

Council Member Garza acknowledged Mr. Kilpatrick for his recent email response to his questions on traffic along Ellendale. Mr. Kilpatrick stated the curve ahead signs are one of the items being replaced.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: November 7, 2018

ACTIVITY REPORT

PLEASANT GROVE AND HOLMES

AND

LOGAN SQUARE

PLEASANT GROVE AND HOLMES

POLICE

- The patrol division has expended 532 overtime hours since June 26, 2018, engaging in a focused cycle of engagement within the proximity of the Center on neighborhood complaints of loitering, trespassing, urination in public, homelessness, pandering, loud noise, drug use, trafficking, shootings, and a host of other nuisance issues. The patrol division has been advised to respond with increased patrols, to include, but not be limited to, overtime assignments, patrol extra attention, communication with business owners, and camera technology improvements.
- Incident reports and calls for service are reviewed with OCA.
- Engaged with Michigan State University for recommendations regarding the environmental design of the Center and its effect on nuisance and crime issues.
- Installation a high definition camera in the parking lot of one of the establishments to increase visibility.
- Application of a variety of police deployment techniques in the area to increase policing efficiencies.
- Continuation of active liquor license compliance checks.

FIRE

Fire inspections were performed on portions of the premises and only minimal violations were observed. A request for inspection of the remaining vacant units and other areas was made, and, if no permission is granted for entry an administrative search warrant will be requested from OCA.

BUILDING SAFETY/CODE COMPLIANCE

- Multiple compliance visits and inspections have been made to the site by Code Compliance and Building Safety. The property has been cited for a trash violation.
- Signs in the right of way have been cited at multiple locations and these have been removed as of the August 23 visit.
- The vehicle for sale at 2200 W Holmes has been removed as of the September 5 inspection.
- Pot holes throughout the parking lots at 2201, 2215, 2227, and the vacant parcels surrounding these properties, resulted in a contract in place with an asphalt company to have the parking lots repaired by October 31.

CITY ATTORNEY

- Since July 1, 2018, the office (OCA) has been implementing a monitoring and zero tolerance policy for incidents arising within a quarter mile radius of this location. Files are then flagged for the prosecutors. Some incidents are referred to the Ingham County Prosecutor (ICPD) either by the police or this office. Three OCA cases have occurred in this area since July 1. One is in warrant status; one conviction for open alcohol has recently been obtained; and one is still with LPD in an unknown status. Four cases in ICPD are in an unknown status and one conviction for assault and battery has been obtained.
- OCA continues to coordinate with different departments for enforcement of any issues when complaints are made to this office.
- In-person contact has been made with the owner of the Center on at least two occasions and a signed promise letter has been obtained. Currently, the City Attorney is attempting to arrange an on-site meeting with the owner regarding compliance with the letter.
- OCA provided some legal assistance with documents related to the easement for Town Square.
- The Office is standing ready for administrative search warrant requests to support inspection activities.

NEIGHBORHOODS AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

- Performed planning work for the new Town Square.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Reviewed public square configuration in connection with the Town Square project.

LOGAN SQUARE

POLICE

- Continuing to monitor two suspect activities in the Center for compliance with law.
- Since the gambling shut down, not much significant activity has been reported; however, homeless issues appear from time to time.

FIRE

- As a result of a code inspection, Fire was alerted to fire suppression issues and an administrative search warrant was obtained for the balance of the inspection of vacant suites. The inspection did occur and problems with the fire suppression systems were found and violation notices were issued together with one notice for an egress door.

BUILDING SAFETY/CODE COMPLIANCE

- Logan Square was cited for violations such as, pot holes in the parking lot; damage to ground signs; window signs exceeding allowable coverage; and storage of shopping carts behind buildings. All have been corrected.

October 12, 2018

- A complete team of inspectors went through the entire premises and Center was cited for trash, waste, and debris.
- The Department communicated in person with all tenants regarding building and premises issues.
- The Mayor, LEAP, and the Director have met with the owner regarding the future of Logan Square and offered assistance with future plans.

CITY ATTORNEY

- Have met with the owner on two occasions regarding compliance and tenant issues.
- Procured an administrative search warrant for Fire inspection.
- OCA is continuing a zero tolerance policy here as noted in Pleasant Grove above. Since July 1, there have been three incidents- 1 Assault and Battery in warrant status; 1 ICPO pending; 1 LPD pending for an unknown suspect.
- OCA continues to coordinate different department responses for enforcement of any issues or complaints as they are presented to the office.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Catch basins were examined to determine if the sewer is in danger of collapse. No imminent danger was found, but the condition was referred to Code Compliance for plumbing and maintenance code examinations.